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Remarks

Claims 1-28 are pending, while claims 7, 9-14, 21, and 23-28 stand withdrawn. Claims 1-6, 8, 15-20, and 22 are rejected. Claims 8 and 22 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 1 and 15 are amended herein. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-6 and 15-20.

The Examiner correctly concludes that claims 7 and 21 should have been indicated as being withdrawn in the election. Applicants herein acknowledge and confirm the withdrawal of these two claims.

Claims 1-3, 6, 15-17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,912,805 (Krasznai et al.). Inasmuch as the rejection applies to the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 15 require at least one row of bristle tufts disposed on the brushroll body. The at least one row of bristle tufts comprise a first tuft of a first effective length from the brushroll body and at least a second tuft of a second effective length that is different from the first effective length. The first tuft is oriented at a first angle with respect to a radius direction of the brushroll body and the second tuft is oriented at a second angle.

Krasznai does not disclose a first bristle tuft at a first angle from a radius direction and a second bristle tuft at a second angle. In contrast, Krasznai only discloses radially oriented bristle tufts. Krasznai does not disclose even a single angled bristle tuft.

In the rejection of dependent claims 8 and 22, below, the Office Action refers to U.S. Patent No. 6,530,106 (Brundula) to provide a bristle tuft or tufts oriented at an angle to a radial direction. Brundula teaches one or more rows of angled bristle tufts. However, Brundula does not teach or suggest a row of bristle tufts including a first tuft of a first effective length and a second tuft of a second effective length. In addition, Brundula does not teach or suggest a row of bristle tufts including a first tuft oriented at a first angle and a second tuft oriented at a second angle. The difference can be fully comprehended by comparing FIG. 5 of the present application to FIGS. 8-8C of Brundula.

Independent claims 1 and 15 therefore include features that are neither taught nor suggested by any of the cited references. Claims 2-3, 6, 16-17, and 20 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 15.

Claims 4 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Krasznai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,459,007 (Taylor). Claims 4 and 18 depend from independent claims 1 and 15 and therefore are patentable for the reasons previously discussed.

Claims 5 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Krasznai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,188,673 (Newman). Claims 5 and 19 depend from independent claims 1 and 15 and therefore are patentable for the reasons previously discussed.

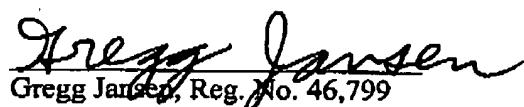
Claims 8 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Krasznai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,530,106 (Brundula). The rejection of claims 8 and 22 is obviated by their cancellation.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-6 and 15-20.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/30/06

  
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